

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SUMMARY OF LIVESTOCK STATISTICS, MARCH 1950.

Figures in parentheses refer to the previous year.

MORTALITY LOSSES, ETC. The reported losses from drought and all other causes were:- Sheep 511,506 (538,149), Cattle 13,406 (20,176) Horses 3,897 (4,637) and Pigs 3,692 (3,756).

SHEEP. 9,477,026 (9,365,713) an increase of 111,313 on the previous year and of 2,690,488 on the 6,786,538 for the drought year 1946, but still 893,539 less than the record pre-drought figure of 10,370,565 for 1943. The comparatively small increase since 9,055,237 two years ago is due to a combination of circumstances:- the lambing has been only average, the slaughterings have been high, the mortality fairly heavy, while larger numbers have been exported to the other States and lesser numbers imported. There were 4,698,604 (4,769,037) breeding and 527,384 (550,664) other ewes, 2,193,357 (2,025,152) wethers; 132,822 (135,983) rams and 1,924,859 (1,884,877) lambs.

BREEDS OF SHEEP. In addition to 47,873 reported to be pure breed, but for which the breed was not specified, pure bred sheep were reported to be as follows:- Merino 7,717,943; Corriedale 549,127; Romney Marsh 30,881; Dorset Horn 20,313; Polwarth 16,262; Leicester Border 11,587; Suffolk 5,611; Ryelands 4,882; Southdown 3,815; English Leicester 1,529; Lincoln 400, Shropshire 267; and Hampshire Downs 192. There were 167,390 Merino Comeback and 898,954 Crossbred.

LAMBING 1949. 4,278,181 (4,250,094) ewes were mated and 3,040,458 (2,967,327) lambs were marked, giving a lambing percentage of 71.07 (69.82). The record number of lambs marked was 3,322,810 in 1943 and the record percentage was 78.68 in 1917.

LAMBING 1950. 4,474,921 (4,601,727) ewes were reported to have been mated or intended to be mated for lambing during 1950 (1949), 3,472,639 (3,317,881) to merino, corriedale or polwarth rams and 1,002,282 (1,283,846) to rams of other breeds.

WOOL CLIP. 10,095,905 (10,273,620) sheep and lambs were reported to have been shorn, the total clip including crutchings etc. being 92,556,940 (92,549,728) lbs. The average fleece for sheep and lambs combined was 9.17 (9.01) lbs. and for sheep only 10.61 (10.58) lbs. The total wool production would include approximately another 13,000,000 (12,910,444) lbs for wool fellmongered and on skins for export, making a total wool production of 105,500,000 (105,460,172) lbs. The record wool production was 115,464,000 lbs. in 1943-44. The wool production is valued at nearly £25,400,000 (£19,395,882) compared with a pre-war average of £4,000,000. The average price for greasy wool was 57.77d. (44.14d.) compared with the pre-war average of approximately 12d. and the earlier extremes of 22.97d. in 1924-25 and 6.82d. in 1930-31.

CATTLE. All kinds 464,141 (461,086) increase 3,055 on the record total of the previous year and of 90,045 on the drought figure of 374,096 in 1946. Dairying cows 203,166 (203,479) were classified as follows - in milk 118,263 (118,823) dry 56,572 (54,042) and springing heifers 28,331 (30,614). Other cattle included other dairy heifers 22,496 (23,907), dairy calves 37,358 (42,925), dairy bulls 8,328 (8,701) beef cows and heifers 95,288 (79,231) beef calves 46,188 (40,492) beef bulls 3,864 (2,801) and other beef cattle 47,453 (54,541). Total dairying cattle 271,348 (279,021) beef cattle 192,793 (182,065).

DAIRY PRODUCTION. Provisional figures for the year ended June, 1950 are as follows: Butter 19,650,000 (20,808,743) lbs., cheese 23,700,000 (26,105,591) lbs and Bacon and Ham 7,600,000 (8,460,221) lbs. Grand total milk production was estimated to be 87,950,000 gallons compared with the record of 93,500,000 in 1946-47. During recent years the average milk production per cow in milk and dry has been nearly 550 gallons. The production of milk, and of dairy products, was below the average of recent years.

HORSES. 82,617 (94,071) of which foals were 3,492 (3,240) draught 45,183 (57,926) and other 33,942 (32,905). The number of horses is only about 40% of the number (200,870) in 1936 and is the lowest number since 1872. The maximum number was 269,255 in 1919.

PIGS. 69,523 (71,427) of which there were 1,870 (1,894) boars, 9,858 (9,592) breeding sows 22,448 (23,528) baconers and porkers, 1,315 (1,062) choppers, 6,380 (7,784) stores, and 27,652 (27,567) weaners, suckers and slips. The number of pigs is the lowest since 1937. The maximum number was 190,068 in 1940, and it was 186,007 only 6 years ago.

GOYDER'S LINE AND LIVESTOCK. Outside Goyder's Line there were 2,682,658 (2,378,873) sheep, 147,925 (133,926) cattle and 23,020 (26,227) horses, while inside there were 6,794,368 (6,986,840) sheep, 316,216 (327,160) cattle and 59,597 (67,844) horses. During the last 20 years there have been only slight variations in the percentages of livestock outside and inside the line. The percentages outside for 1950 were sheep 28.30 (25.40) cattle, 31.87 (29.05), horses 27.86 (27.88).

SLAUGHTERINGS, 1949 (1948) were:- Sheep 1,160,266 (955,009) Lambs 1,162,802 (1,055,602), Cattle 200,721 (189,255) Pigs 115,618 (150,161). Prior to the War, the annual slaughterings were approximately - Sheep 900,000, Lambs 800,000, Cattle 160,000 and Pigs 155,000. For the first six months of 1950 (1949) they were:- Sheep 590,000 (570,000), Lambs 290,000 (320,000), Cattle 110,000 (88,000) and Pigs 55,000 (60,000).

LIVESTOCK AS AT MARCH 31st 1950 COMPARED WITH MARCH 31st 1949.

DIVISION	SHEEP		CATTLE		HORSES	PIGS
	1950	1949	1950	1949	1950	1950
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Central	2,018,438	2,119,164	153,484	156,313	25,961	33,824
Lower North	1,483,223	1,500,529	32,785	34,079	11,193	16,225
Upper North	978,381	809,538	18,506	17,043	6,151	3,204
South Eastern	1,832,139	1,872,705	103,697	108,144	7,846	2,846
Western	1,482,964	1,489,223	14,058	14,832	13,165	5,489
Murray Mallee	871,057	874,859	26,143	28,042	9,648	7,933
Total Counties	8,666,202	8,666,018	348,673	358,453	73,964	69,521
Outside Counties	810,824	699,695	115,468	102,633	8,653	2
Total State	9,477,026	9,365,713	464,141	461,086	82,617	69,523
Increase	111,313	310,476	3,055	15,799	-11,454	-1,904

WOOL CLIP

DIVISION	WOOL			AVER. WEIGHT PER FLEECE		
	1950 Lbs	1949 Lbs	Increase Lbs	1950 Lbs	1949 Lbs	Increase Lbs
Central	20,075,378	20,159,597	-84,219	8.81	8.85	-0.04
Lower North	15,861,340	15,425,296	436,044	9.71	9.49	0.22
Upper North	9,782,997	9,042,542	740,455	10.27	9.66	0.61
South Eastern	17,387,064	17,126,255	260,809	8.44	8.29	0.15
Western	12,988,083	14,156,568	-1,168,485	8.46	8.45	0.01
Murray Mallee	8,729,592	8,273,185	456,407	9.43	9.38	0.05
Total Counties	84,824,454	84,183,443	641,011	9.04	8.89	0.15
Outside Counties	7,732,486	8,366,285	-633,799	10.86	10.34	0.52
Total State	92,556,940	92,549,728	7,212	9.17	9.01	0.16